

Hurricane Katrina Disaster Recovery Center to Open in Chatom

Montgomery, Ala.— The second Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Southwest Alabama will open in Chatham at noon on Saturday, officials from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today. Federal and state recovery specialists at DRCs will provide information about state/FEMA assistance to Alabama residents in the three declared counties who suffered damage from Hurricane Katrina.

Mississippi and Louisiana disaster victims with hurricane damage or loss who have taken refuge in the area are invited to visit the center or the DRC located at the Bayou La Batre Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 12700 Padgett Switch Road in Bayou La Batre (open: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

The Chatom DRC will be located at:

**Woodman of the World Lodge
18051 Jordon St US 17N
Saturday, Sept. 3, 12 noon to 7 p.m.
Daily thereafter: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Before visiting any Recovery Center, disaster victims are urged to call FEMA's toll-free application number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or for the speech- or hearing-impaired **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)**. The toll-free telephone numbers are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available at these numbers to assist disaster victims. Applications for assistance can also be completed online at <http://www.fema.gov>.

DRCs serve as a one-stop information centers and offer disaster victims a chance to talk face-to-face with federal recovery specialists, as well as state and local volunteer organizations who can provide additional assistance or help with immediate unmet needs for disaster victims.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages the federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities to reduce the risk of loss in future disasters, trains first responders, workers with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.